

Faculty of Engineering Research Ethics Committee (FREC)

Queens Building
University Walk
Bristol BS8 1TR
Telephone: (0117) 331 5830

27th July 2020

Mr Humphrey Curtis
Dr Paul O'Dowd
Department of Computer Science
Merchant Venturers Building
Woodland Road
Bristol
BS8 1UB

Dear Mr Curtis and Dr O'Dowd,

Ref: 109702

Title: Developing an affect enhanced "Turrellian" RGB LED lamp designed to improve mood: towards multimodal affect-sensitive computing and devices.

Thank you for submitting your ethics application for the above-named study. The Faculty of Engineering Research Ethics Committee (FREC) has reviewed your application and granted a conditional ethical opinion for this study. The FREC has raised the following issues that need to be addressed before a favourable opinion can be granted:

Full ethics application form

Q9 and Q17 -The committee would welcome clarification on obtaining written and/or verbal participant consent. They would welcome clarification on handling of the Consent Form to avoid potential transmission of Covid-19.

Q24 – The committee would welcome further clarification on data storage, data use and the procedures around anonymization.

General

The committee would welcome further clarification on the nature of the affective state data. For example, they noted that some affective state surveys include sensitive questions and require care.

The committee noted physiological data can have medical import. They suggest the participant information sheet (PIS) should reflect this. It should describe the data to the participant and clarify the data will not be reviewed medically.

The committee noted the PIS Sheet uses technical language such as *affective state* and *IoT Turrellian LED lamp*. They suggest this is clarified to the participants.

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The committee would welcome clarification on what the participant will experience during the session. Is there potential for the participant to be left feeling distressed rather than with an enhanced mood? They advise it is important that the participant fully understands what they are signing up for, particularly since the research involves dealing with the participant's emotional state. The committee suggest this is explicitly stated in the PIS and Consent Form. They suggest some provision should be made for the event where the participant becomes distressed/upset.

The committee would welcome clarification on the questions asked in the survey and semi-structured interview.

The committee would welcome clarification on participant recruitment; will any participants be approached directly? They would welcome further clarification on accessing contact details of participants in relation to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/data-protection/gdpr/>

The committee advise (PIS) the applicant's claim that the experiment is acceptable because they have, at some point in the past, tested negative for Covid 19, communicates a false message about the disease to potential participants.

NB. Due to the current Covid 19 situation no face-to-face data collection can take place. Please keep up to date with the current guidance from the University Research Governance Team regarding research involving human participants and COVID 19, and when restrictions are lifted you must notify us that you are starting your data collection. http://www.bristol.ac.uk/red/research-governance/covid-19_guidance/covid-19_uob_recs/

Or, if you wish to proceed with this study please provide full details of how data collection can proceed virtually.

Please respond to the issues raised above by providing a cover letter addressed to the Chair, Dr Conor Houghton and forward your response to Chris.Bennett@bristol.ac.uk or liam.mckervervey@bristol.ac.uk who will facilitate a review of your response.

Please track change or highlight the changes in the resubmitted documents.

Yours sincerely
Chris Bennett
Research Ethics Assistant

pp
Dr Conor Houghton,
Engineering Faculty Research Ethics Officer (FREO)